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Smallpox.—Week ended May 3, 1906, 7 cases at Caltanissetta, 4 at Niscemi, 1 at Pietraperzia, 1 at Terranova, 1 at San Cataldo, 1 at Serradifalco and 6 at Riesi in the province of Caltanissetta; 11 cases at Genoa, 1 at Spezia (Genoa); 1 at Santo Stefano (Avellino), 1 at Budrio (Bologna).

JAPAN.

Report from Yokohama—Inspection of vessels—Plague in Kobe and Osaka—Smallpox.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Cumming reports, April 28, as follows:

Week ended April 28, 1906. Bills of health granted after inspection to 5 steamships and 2 sailing vessels, having an aggregate personnel of 633 crew and 768 passengers. These vessels were bound for Guam, Manila, Cebu, New York, Honolulu, and San Francisco: Eighty-six steerage passengers were bathed and their effects, consisting of 283 pieces, were disinfected: Eight hundred and seventeen aliens, would-be steerage passengers to the United States or Honolulu, were examined with reference to their freedom from any loathsome or dangerous contagious disease contemplated by the United States immigration laws.

No further cases of cholera have been reported from Tokio and only two cases of smallpox here, one, however, being in Hironuma.

The report of further cases of plague in Kobe and Osaka and of a case in Wakayama originating in Osaka leads me to apprehend the possible spread of that disease, especially in view of the cotton and rice being imported from India.

Emigrants recommended for rejection.

Number of emigrants per steamship *Shinano Maru* recommended April 19, 1906, for rejection: For Seattle, 87.

Per steamship *Doric*, April 21, 1906: For Honolulu, 48; for San Francisco, 2.

Per steamship *Manchuria*, April 28, 1906: For Honolulu, 67; for San Francisco, 2.

Per steamship *Tango Maru*, May 1: For Seattle, 16.

Report from Nagasaki—Beriberi on bark Erasmo.

Sanitary Inspector Bowie reports, April 20, as follows:

On April 6, 1906, the Italian bark *Erasmo*, from Philadelphia, laden with case oil, arrived in tow of the Hamburg-American steamship *Segovia*. The bark had been sighted by the steamer about 100 miles off this port flying signals of distress, and with only her mainsail set. Upon boarding her it was found that the captain and all on board, with the exception of one man, were suffering from beriberi, and that the vessel was virtually a derelict. It was stated that the disease had begun to show itself about two weeks before, and one man, said to have had the worst case, had died that same day. The captain of the *Segovia* placed 7 of his men on board, and then proceeded to tow the bark to her destination, Nagasaki. On the afternoon of her arrival I went on board and found the crew in their bunks and unable to get

about. By my advice the captain ordered them to be transferred to St. Bernard Hospital, where they have since been under my care.

Upon examination I found that only the so-called "wet" form of beriberi prevailed, with extensive edema of the legs, and, in some instances, of the abdominal parietes, together with ascites. There was very little secretion of urine and the knee reflex was absent in every case. Only in one patient was I able to detect any serious involvement of the valvular orifices of the heart, the enlargement of the right ventricle, to which other observers have called attention, not being present. Possibly this was due to the short period which elapsed from the outbreak of the epidemic until the cases came under treatment. Generally the men showed no symptoms of anæmia and, on the whole, were well nourished. At the present writing half of the number (10) have returned on board entirely free from all symptoms of the disease, except a slight muscular weakness. The others are all progressing favorably and will soon be discharged cured. Aside from a liberal diet and an occasional purgative, the sole treatment has been with digitalis, which acted promptly and effectively. The most prominent objective symptom was the exceptionally slow pulse, usually between 50 and 60. Have not reached a satisfactory conclusion as to cause of the outbreak. The vessel is comparatively new, only 3 years old. The voyage had lasted 207 days, and the potatoes and other vegetables had long since given out. Macaroni and pasta were served three times daily, and when the disease commenced to spread, the captain stopped the salt horse, and supplied roast beef bought in Philadelphia, preserved in tins.

A close questioning of the crew elicited the fact that the defunct sailor had come on board sick, and another has admitted to me that he was laid up in the hospital in Philadelphia for quite a long time with "rheumatism" before shipping on the articles. The forecastle was just forward of amidships on the main deck, fairly well ventilated and no better nor worse than dozens of other sailing-ship forecastles I have inspected. At my request the local quarantine officials have thoroughly disinfected the ship and I have asked the acting Italian consul to call for a survey on the provisions with a view to their condemnation, the men making the usual complaint of their being infested with vermin. The *Erasmo* had been chartered to take lumber from one of the Oregon or California ports, but owing to the long outward voyage the charter has been canceled. It is likely, however, that she will go over to the west coast, in which event I will again notify the Bureau.

MEXICO.

Report from Progreso—Yellow fever in Merida.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Harrison reports, May 14, as follows:

Two cases of yellow fever have occurred in Merida. One of these ended fatally May 10, the other May 11. Both cases appear to have originated in Merida or in some town in the vicinity.

Report from Veracruz—Inspection of vessels—Mosquitoes.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Frick reports, May 14, as follows:

Week ended May 12, 1906.

May 8 inspected and passed the British steamship *Fernfield*, bound for a port in the United States via Cienfuegos, Cuba, with 27 in the